IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier

versions and listings.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for use in

managing a network system provided with plural a plurality of information processing apparatus

to apparatuses to each of which is connected [[is]] a shared device so functioning as to be usable

from other that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network, the

said information apparatus comprising:

management means for managing the information of a shared device

present in said the network system;

reception means for receiving the information of a shared device

connected to another information processing apparatus;

transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device

connected to the own said information processing apparatus to another information processing

apparatus on said the network system; and

renewal means for renewing the changing information on a status or a

connected condition of the shared device [[in]] displayed on a display of said information

processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means,

based on the information received by said reception means.

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Claim 2 (original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of ~~said another~~ the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at the log-on to ~~said~~ the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in ~~said~~ the network system.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after ~~said~~ the change.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, at the log-on to ~~said~~ the network system,

[[to]] automatically to transmit the information of the shared device connected to ~~the own~~ said information processing apparatus.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from ~~said~~ the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of ~~said another~~ the other information processing apparatus in said management means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the information of the shared device connected to ~~the own~~ said information processing apparatus ~~to another information processing apparatus~~, [[to]] selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on ~~said~~ the network system or a second method for transmission to ~~another~~ the other information processing apparatus through ~~said~~ the network system.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An information processing method for ~~use in~~ managing a network system provided with ~~plural~~ a plurality of information processing ~~apparatus~~ ~~to~~ apparatuses, including a first information processing apparatus, to each of which is connected [[is]] a shared device ~~so functioning as to be usable from other~~ that can be used by another

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A2 information processing apparatus through the information processing network, the method

comprising:

a management step, of managing the information of a shared device

present in ~~said~~ the network system by management means;

a reception step, of receiving the information of a shared device

connected to another information processing apparatus;

a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device

connected to ~~the own~~ a first information processing apparatus to another information processing

apparatus on ~~said~~ the network system; and

a renewal step, of ~~renewing the~~ changing information on a status of a

connected condition of the shared device ~~in said~~ displayed on a display of the first information

processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by the management means,

based on the information received [[by]] in said reception step.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing method according to

claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the reception means performs processing that includes a first reception

control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the

information of the shared device included in ~~said~~ the group.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An information processing method according to

claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on

of another information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the network system and receiving the

information of the shared device of ~~said~~ the another information processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An information processing method according to

claim 9, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to ~~said~~ the network system, to

automatically receive the information of the shared device present in ~~said~~ the network system.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An information processing method according to

claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the

status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status

after ~~said~~ the change.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information processing method according to

claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to

automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the [[own]] first

information processing apparatus.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An information processing method according to

claim 9, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another

information processing apparatus from ~~said~~ the network system, to invalidate the information of

the shared device of ~~said another~~ the other information processing apparatus in ~~said~~ the

management means.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the [[own]] first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus, [[to]] selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said the network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said the network system.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for use in managing a network system provided with plural a plurality of information processing apparatus to apparatuses, including a first information processing apparatus, to each of which is connected [[is]] a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network, the said information processing program comprising:

a management step, of managing the information of a shared device present in said the network system, using [[by]] management means;

a reception step, of receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to own the first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on said the network system; and

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a renewal step, of ~~renewing the~~ changing information on a status or a

connected condition of the shared device ~~in said~~ displayed on a display of the first information

processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by the management means,

based on the information received [[by]] in said reception step.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to

claim 17, wherein said reception ~~means~~ step includes a first reception control step of designating

a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device

included in ~~said~~ the group.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to

claim 17, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on

of another information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the network system and receiving the

information of the shared device of ~~said another~~ the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to

claim 17, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to ~~said~~ the network system, to

automatically receive the information of the shared device present in ~~said~~ the network system.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to

claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in

the status of a shared device connected to the ~~own~~ first information processing apparatus, to

transmit information on the status after ~~said~~ the change.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to ~~said~~ the network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the ~~own~~ first information processing apparatus.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from ~~said~~ the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of ~~said another~~ the other information processing apparatus in ~~said~~ the management means.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the information of the shared device connected to the ~~own~~ first information processing apparatus ~~to another information processing apparatus~~, [[to]] selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on ~~said~~ the network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through ~~said~~ the network system.